

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ITC-01 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01
(ISO) W

-----051057 161127Z /15

R 160802Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3804

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12791

USEEC

USMTN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, ETRD

SUBJECT: ASEAN: INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA TO BENFIT FROM TRIPARTITE
1,758 TARIFF CUTS?

1. SINGAPOREAN EMBOFF TAN SIM LIM CHARACTERIZED THE ASEAN
SUMMIT AS A "DISAPPOINTMENT" FROM THE GOS POINT OF VIEW.
THE GOS HAD EXPECTED THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE
FLEXIBLE IN MEETING THE GOS REQUEST FOR A LOWER RANGE OF
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HORSEPOWER FOR ITS DIESEL ENGINE PROJECT, BUT THE SUMMIT
MERELY CONFIRMED THE GOI INSISTANCE THAT THE SINGAPORE
PROJECT BE LIMITED TO 500 HP AND ABOVE.

2. THIS SUBJECT WILL AGAIN BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING OF
ECONOMIC MINISTERS AT PATTAYA EARLY NEXT MONTH, BUT THE GOS
DOES NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE. THE PATTAYA MEETING WILL ALSO

DISCUSS POSITIONS FOR THE US/ASEAN DIALOGUE, BUT THE SIGNIFICANT SUBJECT WOULD LIKELY BE THE TRIPARTITE SINGAPORE/PHILIPPINE/THAILAND AGREEMENT FOR LOWER TARIFFS BY 10 PER CENT ON 1,758 ITEMS. TAN SIM LIN STATED THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE FINALIZED SOON AND THAT THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD EXTEND THE BENEFITS UNILATERALLY TO INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. HOPEFULLY, THE LOWER TARIFFS ON THE 1,758 ITEMS WOULD ENTER INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1977, ALONG WITH THE LOWER TARIFFS ON THE 71 ITEMS AGREED UPON BY ALL 5 ASEAN COUNTRIES, BUT IT MAY NOT (RPT NOT) BE POSSIBLE TO MEET THIS SCHEDULE.

3. JOSE FERNANDEZ (GOP ASEAN SECRETARIAT) TOLD US THAT SINGAPORE, PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND HAD SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ANNOUNCING TRIPARTITE, UNILATERAL LOWERING OF TARIFFS DURING SUMMIT MEETING. HOWEVER, ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT WAS DECIDED THAT SUCH A TRIPARTITE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD NOT (RPT NOT) BE POLITICAL AT MEETING INTENDED TO EMPHASIZE ASEAN UNITY, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTPONED. THE 1,758 ITEMS IN QUESTION ARE SAID TO COVER 85 PERCENT OF ITEMS TRADED WITHIN ASEAN.

4. ON THE US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS, TAN SIM LIM SAID THAT EVERYONE NOW AGREES THAT THE DIALOGUE SHOULD BE BETWEEN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS, AND THE ASEAN DELEGATIONS WOULD BE HEADED BY ECONOMIC MINISTERS. HE THOUGHT THAT MRS. MANALO HAD MISREAD THE U.S. SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC MINISTRIES/MINISTERS AS A PROTOCOL QUESTION. (COMMENT: WE DON'T THINK SO.)
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5. REGARDING THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN JAKARTA, TAN SIM LIM INFORMED THAT THE GOS HAD NOMINATED KOK FU YEE AS THE CULTURAL OFFICER. THE GOS HAD WANTED THE POSITION OF TRADE OFFICER.) OK FU YEE HAS NOW TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN JAKARTA. HE WAS FORMERLY FIRST SECRETARY IN MANILA AND TOKYO BEFORE JOINING THE CULTURAL MINISTRY.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-1230
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From: MANILA EEC
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770858/aaaabwrm.tel
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